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PSYCHOLOGY.

A CURIOUS SUPERSTITION.—A neighbor, residing on a small farm near me, has, on several occasions, spoken of his experience with "hog mice." He came to this country many years ago from Northamptonshire, England, where he had often seen these strange animals. They are also occasionally seen by him here in Iowa. This mythical rodent is about the size of a barn mouse, but its striking peculiarity, as to outward appearance, is, that it has a head and face fashioned exactly like that of a hog. It is a very "uncanny" little beast. If it merely runs across the body of a sleeping person, or of a domestic animal, such unfortunate person or animal will be grievously afflicted with lameness or soreness wherever the mouse sets down one of its little feet! Serious disability often comes from the touch of the "'og mouse." In some extreme cases the affliction is well-nigh incurable, and may even last a life-time.

My old friend said that it was no hearsay matter with him. He "had seen 'og mice both in Northamptonshire and 'ere in Hamerica." One of his colts "was disabled by a 'og mouse running hover hit, and was a long, long time getting well."

A striking peculiarity of the hog-faced *mus*, according to my old friend, is that it is never seen at rest, but is always "on a dead run," as if fleeing from pursuit.

I tried to reason him out of this absurd belief, but he stoutly asserted that he had often seen these animals and witnessed the deleterious effects of their presence; that his knowledge was positive, and that there could be no mistake about the matter.

I have consulted "Brande's Cyclopædia of Popular Antiquities," but find no reference to this strange superstition, which, therefore, must be merely local. It is certainly a very singular one, and worthy of being "in books recorded" with others of its class.—Charles Aldrich, Webster City, Iowa, July 1, 1886.

THE COPPERHEAD AND OTHER SNAKES.—A copperhead in good condition was recently placed in a cage in the reptile department of the Smithsonian Institution, in which were also confined a *Heterodon platyrhinus* (hog nose) and a *Tropidonotus sipedon* (water snake). The two harmless species showed great fear of the copperhead, retreating promptly to the part of the cage most remote from their dangerous visitor. The behavior of the two snakes differed. The water snake, although the more pugnacious of the two where the human hand is in question, endeavored to hide, and laid perfectly quiet in such depressions as he could find in the sand of the floor. The *Heterodon*, on the other hand, inflated his lung so as to double his usual diameter, and expanded the ribs of the anterior fourth of his length, and hissed loudly with both inspirations and expirations. He also burrowed into the sand in the bottom of the cage, and thus covered his head

with a pile of that material, which he raised in the air. In this singular condition he made the greatest possible display of himself in front of the copperhead, as though to intimidate him. He maintained the inflation for two days, or until the copperhead was removed, as if aware that a bite into a bag of wind would be almost innocuous. The copperhead acted as though master of the situation, but could not be persuaded to bite, though considerably irritated.—*E. D. Cope.*

ANTHROPOLOGY.¹

CHILD GROWTH. — It is a matter of almost daily notice that the children about us are changing, growing, yet of the laws governing this growth, we think but little, if, indeed, we give them any thought.

If the body develops normally it receives but little attention and no study from mothers. To the mind we give more heed, although even that receives but a small amount of care until the child has advanced far on the pathway of knowledge.

There are laws governing the growth of body and mind which go hand-in-hand, and which should be known to, and studied by, every custodian of children, be it as parent, teacher or guardian. No need to leave our homes, families or schools to study these laws, for right there is the veiled Isis whose study will lead us to higher planes, where, if we would work with half the zeal displayed in the merely ornamental, we could make contributions of true value to anthropology, as well as secure to ourselves and children knowledge of priceless value. This mine of wealth is our children, the beloved of our hearts, the treasures of our lives.

It is the systematic study of their growth, physical and mental, that I hope we may undertake together.

The study of my little daughter began in 1881, shortly after her birth, when, looking at her tiny hand with the wondering love of a mother over her first born, I outlined the rosy palm with pencil and paper, adding a lock of the silky fuzz, not so much to show the character of the hair, perhaps, but because the drawing looked rather naked. Imagine my surprise later to find just such an outline for scientific measurement; also, to learn the great importance of the color and quality of the hair. (Professor Huxley, in his *Anatomy of the Vertebrate Animals*, divides his races of mankind into two primary divisions, according to the quality of the hair, viz: The *Ulotrichi* with crisp and woolly hair, and the *Liotrichi* with smooth hair.) I then added the weight at birth, then the time of her first smile, in short, the record grew until I have a journal which has much in common with the study of anthropology.

Every thinker admits that in the human, as well as other ani-

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